

01774-68

~~SECRET~~

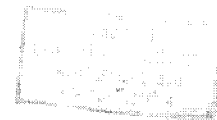
16 MAY 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Attention: Mr. S.J. Papich

SUBJECT: Investigation in Japan of Report on Suspicious  
Actions of Gerald Lee Richards, Originally  
Described as Resembling Suspected Assassin of  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

1. Reference is made to the report concerning the above  
subject made by telephone to Mr. S.J. Papich at 0950 on 17 April  
1968. Following is a full account of the investigation made on  
this case:

1. On 16 April 1968 a United States National  
Maritime Union official in Yokohama reported that one  
Gerald Lee Richards, who bore a general physical  
resemblance to the description given of the suspected  
assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had arrived  
in Japan about 15 April 1968 and requested a position  
aboard any ship going anywhere. Richards became  
agitated when asked for a contact address in Japan  
and refused to divulge his Japanese residence. The  
National Maritime Union official described Richards  
as 5' 10" tall, 155 pounds, with brown hair, a receding  
hairline on both sides, and a not very prominent nose  
two and one-half inches long traversing the center  
forehead, his most outstanding characteristics being a  
disconcerting, idiotic grin resembling a constant  
grimace. According to Richards' documents and state-  
ments, he was born 3 April 1937, applied for natural-  
ization papers in San Pedro, California, 15 June 1964 and  
registered there as a United States National Maritime  
Union member on 21 February 1966 but never shipped out.  
His Social Security Number is [redacted] his United  
States Coast Guard Number is 25-11-752.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

B. A subsequent check with the Japanese National Police Agency confirmed the biographic data supplied by the National Maritime Union official. A ward check indicated that Richards originally resided in Japan from 1963 to 1964 and married TAKAYAMA Michiko in 1963. Both Richards and his wife left Japan for the United States in 1964. Richards returned alone to Japan about 15 April 1968. His wife's address in the United States is listed as 160 Hosoi (phonetic) Street, Carpinteria, California, 93013.

C. A photograph of Richards obtained from the Japanese police was shown to the National Maritime Union official and identified by him as the individual in subparagraph 1A above who had applied for a seaman's berth. The photograph of Richards bears no apparent resemblance to photographs of suspected assassin James Earl Ray provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

2. The above information has been given to the Legal Attache of the United States Embassy in Tokyo.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PLANS:

Signed: James R. Hunt

JAMES ANGLETON

CSCI-316/01774-68

DDP/FE/JKOJO/R:M.A.O'Malley:dsh (8 May 1968)

Distribution:

- 2 - Addressee
- 1 - CI/LSN
- 1 - CI/R&A
- 2 - CIOP/DO (201-832732)
- 1 - RID
- 1 - CFE
- 1 - FE/JKOJ